

**PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

Docket Number (Optional)

PA2699US

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

on \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Application Number

10/772,926

Filed

February 4, 2004

First Named Inventor

Glen McLaughlin et al.

Art Unit

3768

Examiner

Vani Gupta

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

/deepa ravindranath/

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.  
See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.  
(Form PTO/SB/96)

Signature

Deepa Ravindranath

Typed or printed name

☒ attorney or agent of record.  
Registration number 60,379

650-812-3400

Telephone number

☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.  
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 \_\_\_\_\_

June 17, 2009

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required.  
Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☒ \*Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Glen McLaughlin et al.

APPLICATION NO. : 10/772,926

FILING DATE: February 4, 2004

TITLE: System for Phase Inversion Ultrasonic Imaging

EXAMINER: Vani Gupta

ART UNIT: 3768

CONF. NO.: 6059

ATTY.DKT.NO.: PA2699US

---

BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PRE-APPEAL REQUEST FOR REVIEW

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent number 6,120,448 to *Bradley* in view of U.S. patent number 4,917,097 to *Proudian*. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization and application of *Proudian* in conjunction with *Bradley*, and respectfully request pre-appeal brief review of the same.

*Proudian* discloses a dynamic signal averager, which “**signal average[s]** the detected ultrasonic signals...in order to produce a single collective signal.” *Proudian*, col. 19, l. 1-2. (emphasis added) *Proudian* keeps a “running average—that is, a new average is calculated upon the reception at the dynamic signal averager of each new reflection signal.” *Proudian*, col. 19 l. 4-7. In addition, “an obvious alternative is to collect all the reflection signals and make a **single averaging calculation.**” *Proudian*, col. 19, l. 8-9. (emphasis added).

**Error I:        The Examiner has equated “signal averaging” as taught in *Proudian* with ‘arithmetic averaging’ taught by the Applicants**

The Examiner relies on *Proudian* to teach the Applicants’ claimed receiver and raw data averager unit. The receiver and raw data averager, as claimed by the Applicants, ‘provid[es] a point-by-point **arithmetic average**.’ *Proudian*’s disclosure, however, is limited to the assumptions of **signal averaging**. These assumptions include, for instance, that noise is not correlated with the signal (i.e. noise is random), and that the temporal position of each signal waveform must be accurately known.

The Examiner has not appreciably demonstrated how “**signal averaging**,” which is known in the art and taught by *Proudian*, renders obvious the “point-by-point **arithmetic average**” as taught by the Applicants. Further to this point, the Applicants disclose, in the *Specification*, that “various forms of averaging techniques have been employed to reduce the noise, but averaging alone is ineffective in locating images of interest between tissues with similar densities.” *Specification*, [0004]. *Proudian*, absent further evidence from the Examiner, would fall into this category of ineffectiveness notwithstanding its combination with *Bradley*.

**Error II:        The Examiner has failed to consider the plain and ordinary meaning of the ‘point-by-point’ arithmetic average’ provided by the receiver and raw data averager**

As discussed *supra*, the Examiner relies on *Proudian* to disclose the Applicants’ claimed receiver and raw data averager unit. The receiver and raw data averager ‘provid[es] a **point-by-point** arithmetic average of the received at least two out-of-phase- pulses modified by the media of interest.’ *Proudian*, however, refers to a “**running average**” which yields a **single averaging calculation** that represents **all** the detected ultrasound

signals, as quoted *supra*. *Proudian*, therefore, does not disclose the ‘point-by-point arithmetic average’ provided by the receiver and raw data averager as claimed by the Applicants.

## CONCLUSION

*Proudian*, in combination with *Bradley*, fails to disclose each and every element of the independent claims, including at least a ‘receiver and raw data averager unit providing a point-by-point arithmetic average of the received at least two out-of-phase- pulses modified by the media of interest.’

Respectfully submitted,  
Glen McLaughlin et al.

June 17, 2009

By: /deepa ravindranath/  
Deepa Ravindranath (60,379)  
**CARR & FERRELL LLP**  
2200 Geng Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
T: 650.812.3400  
F: 650.812.3444